★BLACK STAR★

PAPER OF THE BALLYMENA ANARCHIST GROUP

Our rights are inalienable. Each person born on the world is heir to all the preceding ages. The whole world is ours by right of birth alone. Duties, imposed as obligations or ideals, such as patriotism, duty to the state, worship of God, submission to higher classes or authorities, respect for inherited privileges, are lies.

FEBRUARY 1984 ISSUE TWO 10p

Feb 84

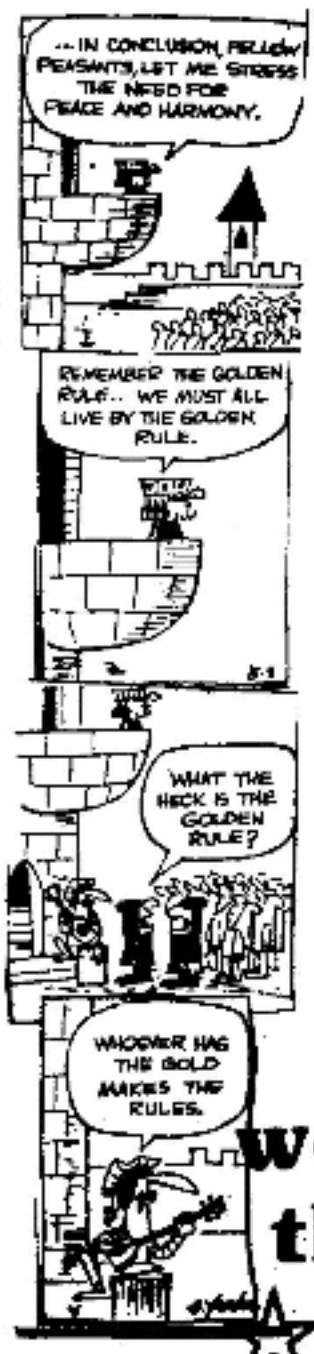
ANARCHISM- THE STONE THE BUILDERS REJECTED

Anarchy comes from the Greek αν αρχη means without government. This much any dictionary will tell you, but anarchism is more than that. Firstly, it is a theory of life and revolution which despises injustice, loves the common people, and believes strongly in the coming bright dawn of liberty throughout the globe. And secondly, it is the story of the men and women who have given of their time, their dreams and their lives in order to help make this world a better place when they come to leave it, than it was when they entered it—some have been writers and leaders like Proudhon, Kropotkin, Bakunin, and Malatesta, others fighters like Durutti and Makhno, and still others , too many for any mention, formed and led the unions and manned the barricades and printed and sold the papers and books, but one thing characterizes them all: they all learned, in Nietzche's phrase, to love beyond themselves.

Essentially, anarchism is socialism plus freedom. For Anarchists, liberty is not a bauble in the gift of any government or political party, but is something alive and beautiful, which everyone must claim for his or her own, acting in a spirit of solidarity among equals. That is why we will have nothing to do with parliamentary elections, because political parties of all colours only seek to rule, not to liberate, and in any case everyone must free themselves.

Anarchism is an international movement, and we have comrades on every continent: comrades in South America and Central America, in North America and Canada, in Australasia, China, Russia, the Eastern Block and throughout Europe, in most cities in Britain and in many towns in Ireland

In every revolution or movement for social change, since the middle of the last century, anarchism has been in the van. Anarchists played an important role in forming the trade-union movement world-wide, and took part in, amongst others, the Russian, the Chinese, the Spanish, and the Cuban Revolutions, but with little reward, fighting bravely only to be jailed, killed, degraded, and denounced by every new set of rulers that these revolts placed in power. In Russia, the Anarchists in the Ukraine had to fight not just the invading Western capitalist armies, but the Red Armies of Lenin and Trotsky as well. In Spain, the Communists fought the Anarchists instead of the fascists or the revolution, and in Cuba, after they came to power, Castro and Guevara had Cienfuegos, an anarchist who had fought beside them against Battista executed.


--IN CONCLUSION, FELLOW PEASANTS, LET ME STRESS THE NEED FOR PEACE AND HARMONY.
REMEMBER THE GOLDEN RULE... WE MUST ALL LIVE BY THE GOLDEN RULE.
WHAT THE HECK IS THE GOLDEN RULE?
WHOEVER HAS THE GOLD MAKES THE RULES.

Every revolution up to nowhas failed to gain the people freedom because the iniative has always been stolen from them by new Czars, claiming to be of the people. Party members have got rich, and the people have stayed poor. Only anarchism offers hope for a better world. The gateway to civilization is the social revelution, whereby the whole basis of society would be transformed. There will be no more poverty, no more misery of the type there now is and the basis of this society will be the people running their own lives, with the workers running their own factories, and people running their own communities , perhaps using the type of councils described on page 2.
Each small area would run itself, with the sovereign assembly being formed by the sum of the people in that area.So there would be no countries, and without countries there could be no war. Argentina and Britain can fight, but Ballymena could'nt fight, say, Lima.

To some, all this must sound crazy, only a dream, but in the dark days at the end of this filthy century, dreams form the only hope we've got. And everything we hope for is perfectly within reach, if only the working people will awake to theor strength. The road taken by the Marxists, authoritarian socialism, led directly to Stalin's prison camps and to Andropov's nuclear threat. Libertarian socialism, or as it's proudly called ANARCHISM, the stone all the builders of our world have rejected, must bec become the corner-stone, or all life from here on in will be an insane carnival of lucre, squalor, misery and pain, until the whole damned thing comes tumbling down.

we two are enemies, the State and I

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

INSIDE

What is government ?
workers councils
Malatesta Ida White
Spain 1936 & 1984
Orwell Soldiers &
lots of anarchy.....

If voting could change the system, it would be illegal...

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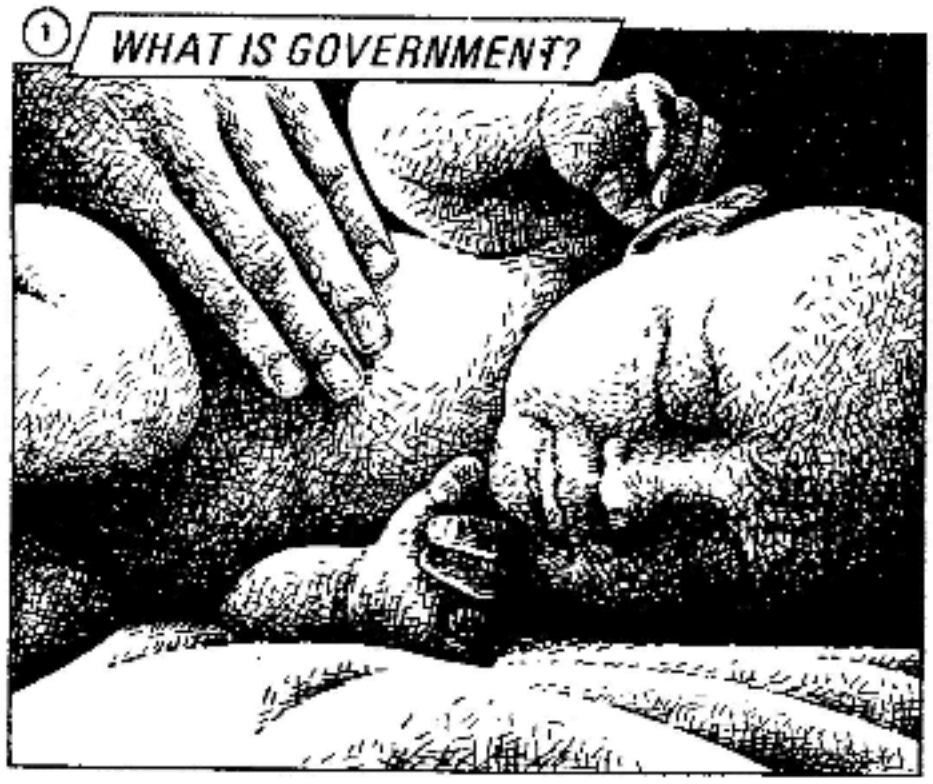
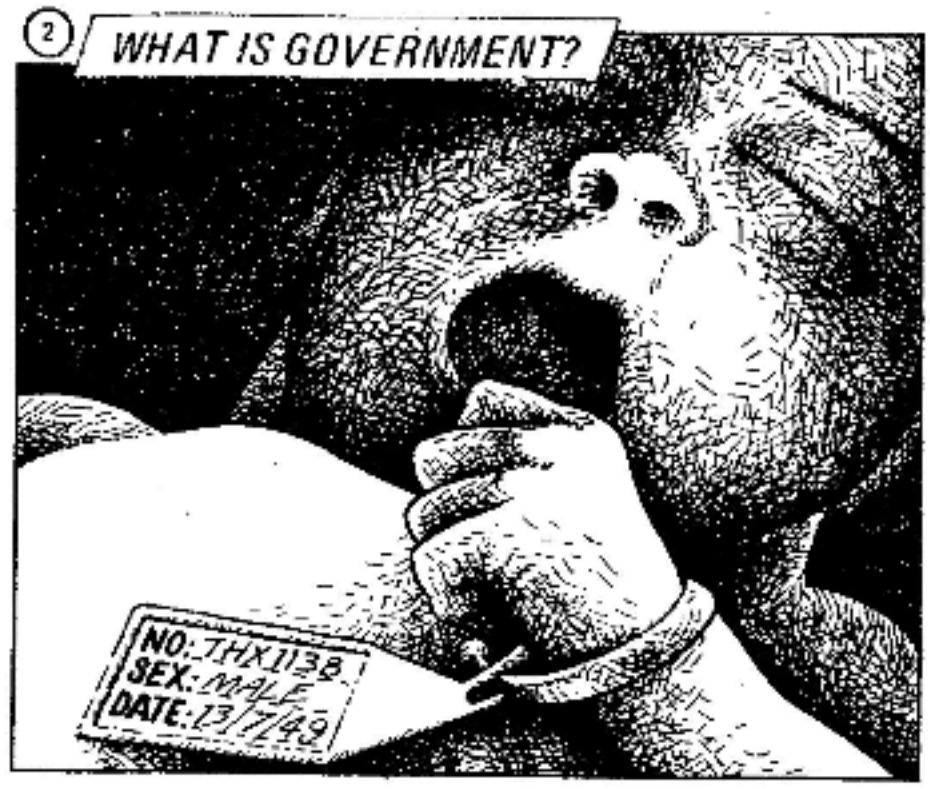
WHAT IS GOVERNMENT ?



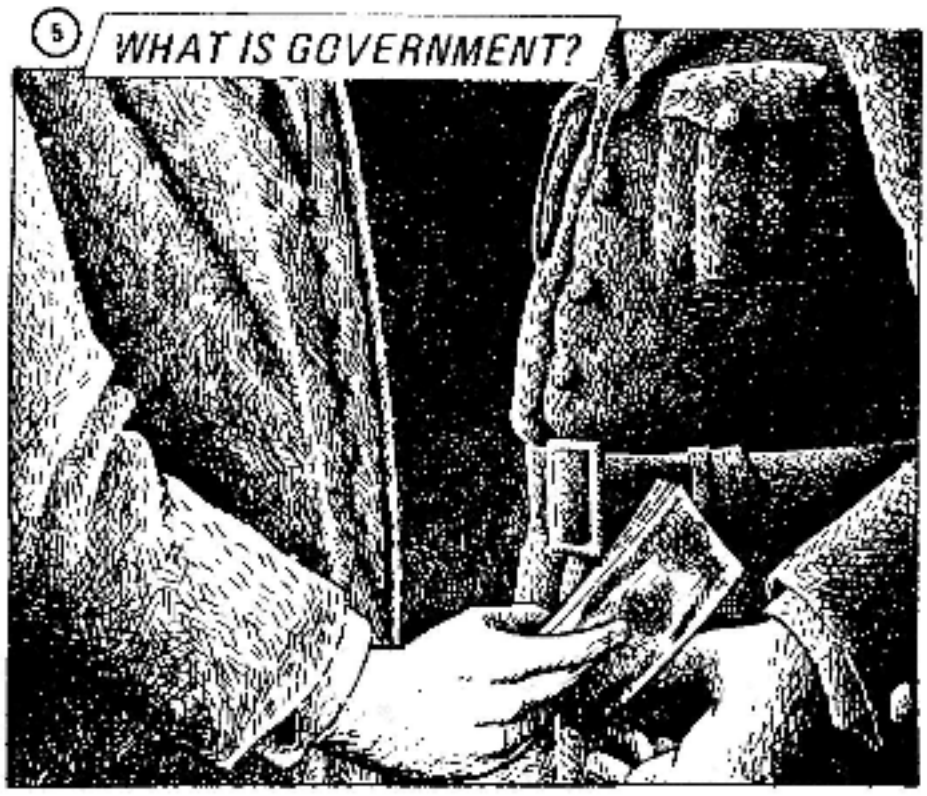
WHOEVER LAYS THEIR HAND ON ME



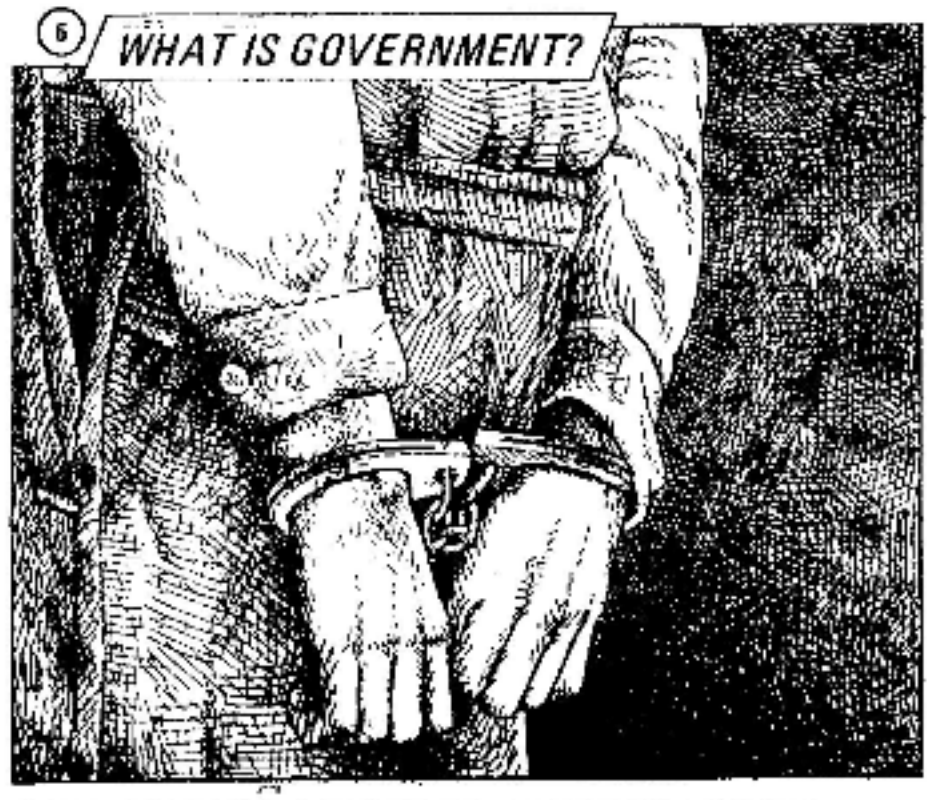
IS A USURPER AND A TYRANT;

I DECLARE THEM TO BE MY ENEMY . . .

GOVERNMENT IS SLAVERY.



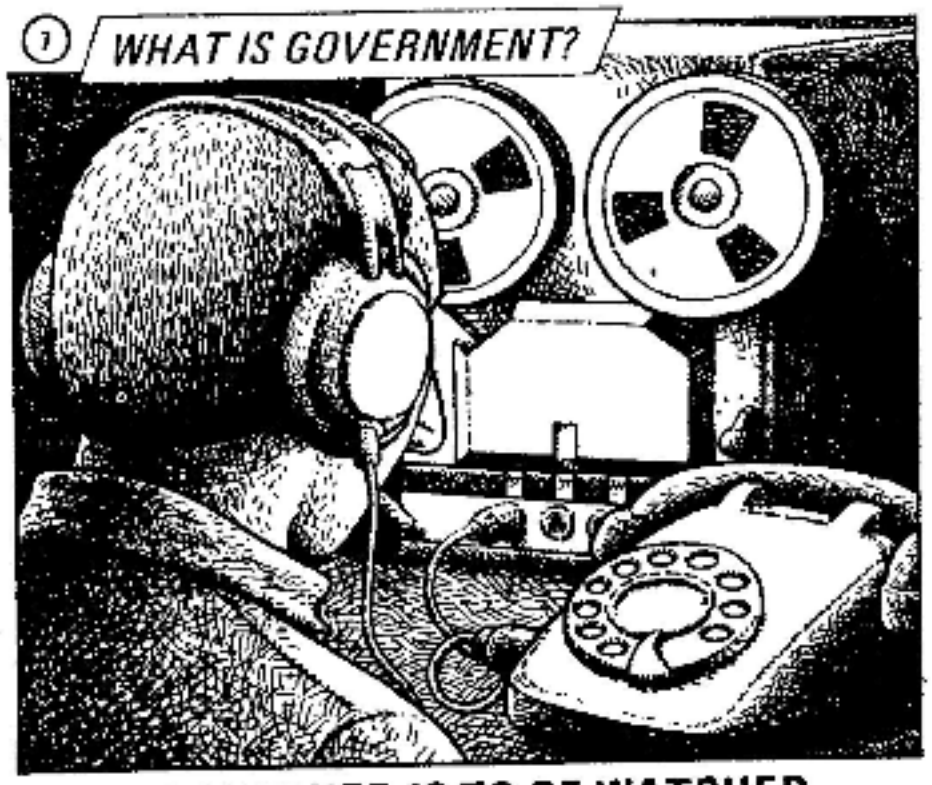
ITS LAWS ARE COBWEBS FOR THE RICH



AND CHAINS OF STEEL FOR THE POOR.

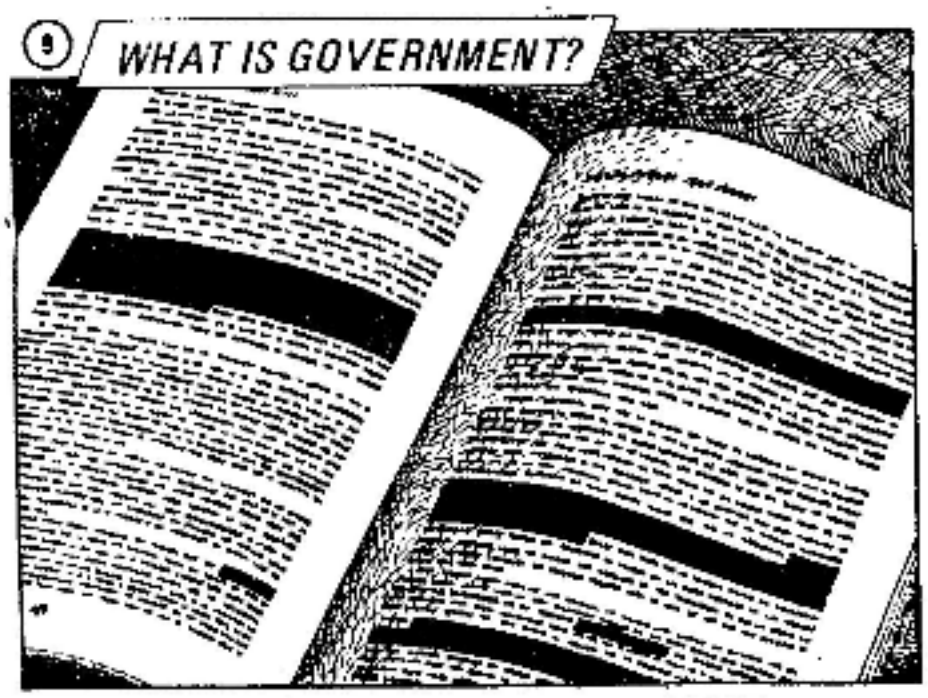
WORDS(PIERRE JOSEPH PROUDHON 1848 PARIS)

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT ?



TO BE GOVERNED IS TO BE WATCHED,
INSPECTED, SPIED ON,

REGULATED, INDOCTRINATED, PREACHED
AT, CONTROLLED, RULED,



CENSORED BY PERSONS WHO HAVE
NEITHER WISDOM NOR VIRTUE.

IT IS IN EVERY ACTION AND TRANSACTION

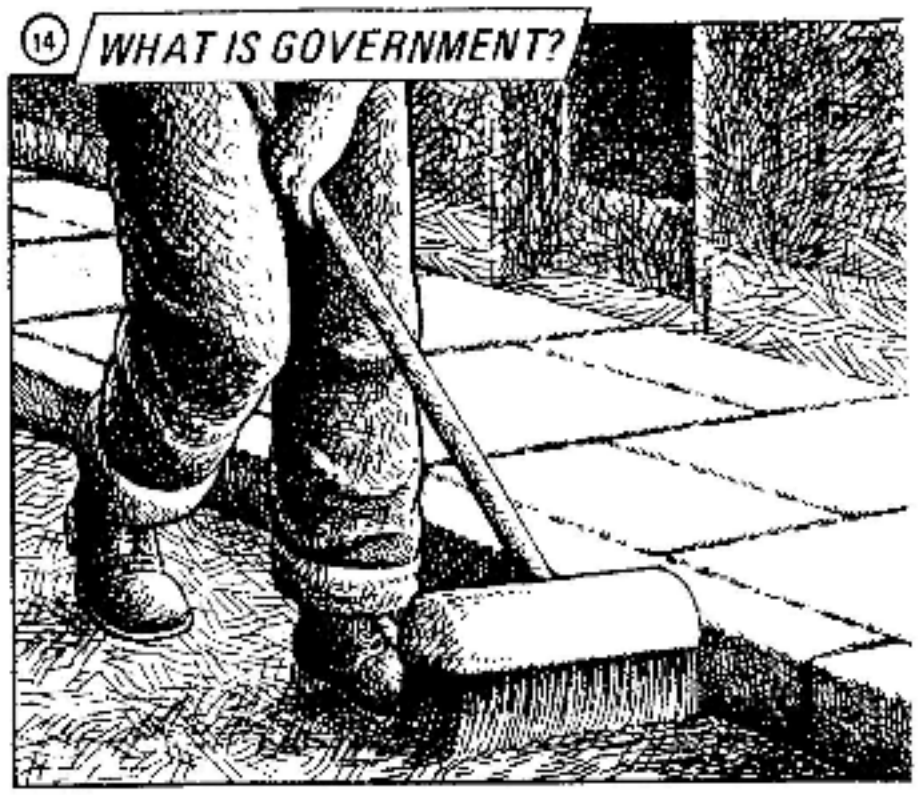
TO BE REGISTERED, STAMPED,

TAXED, PATENTED, LICENSED, ASSESSED,

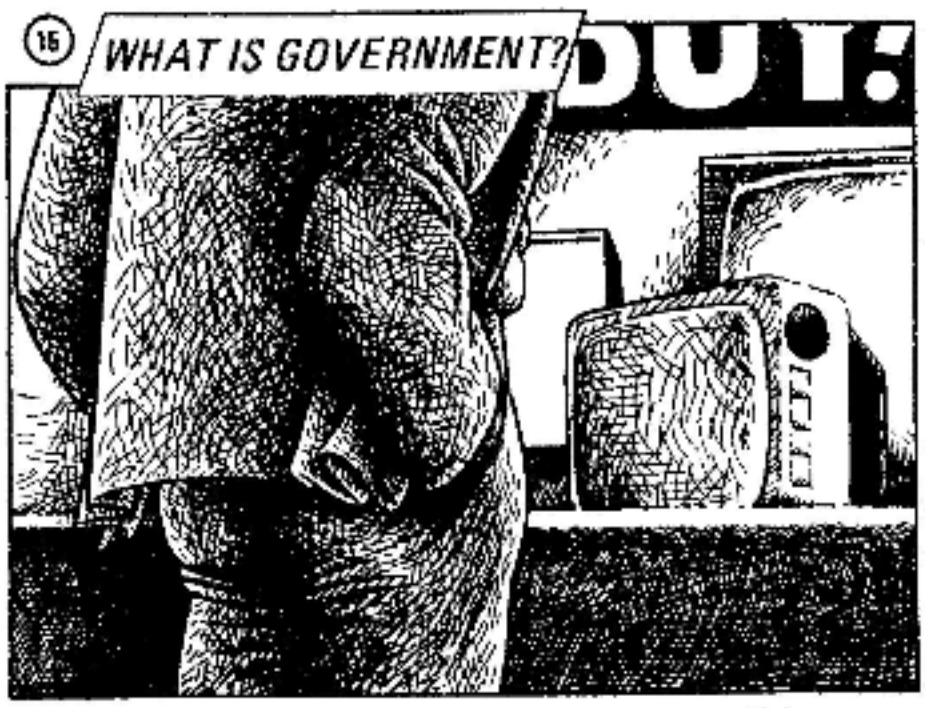
artwork (cliff harper london 1981)

WHAT IS GOVERNMENT ?

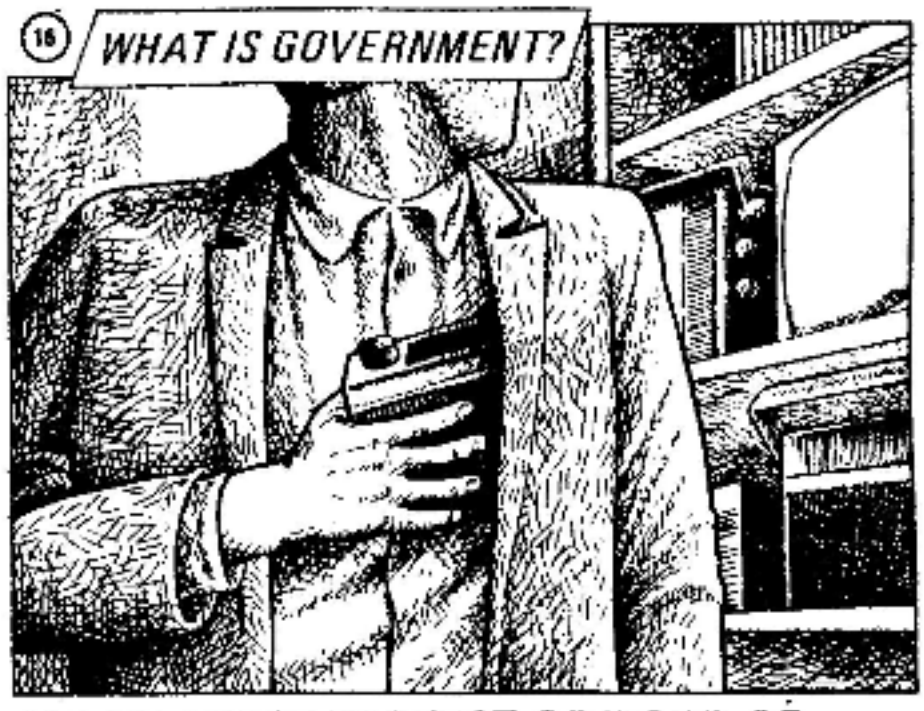
MEASURED, REPRIMANDED, CORRECTED, FRUSTRATED.



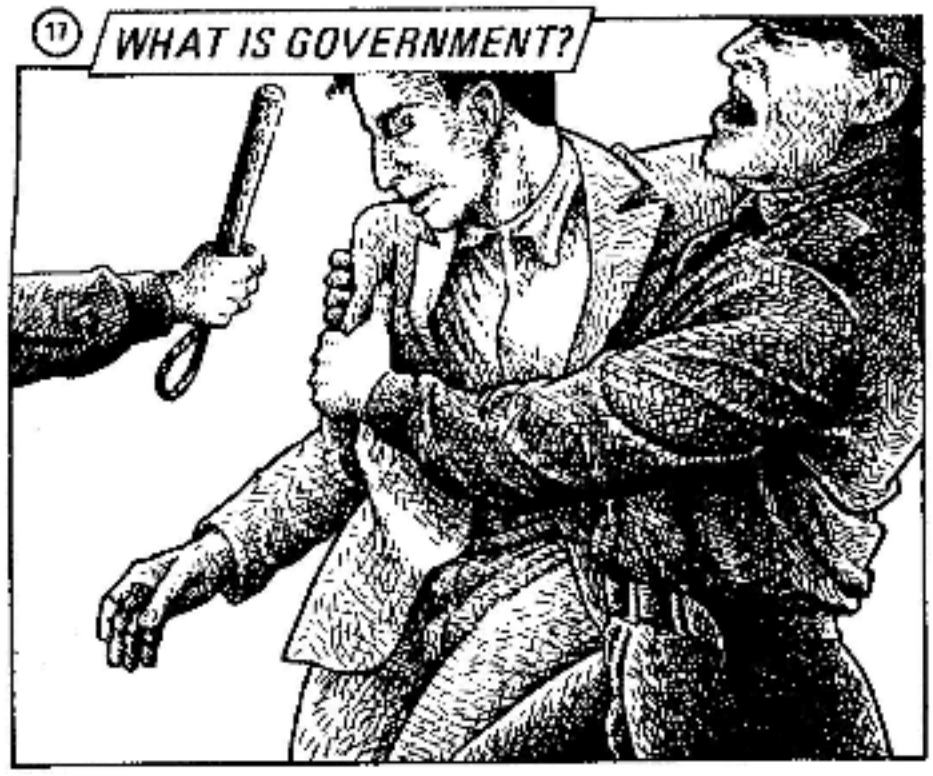
UNDER PRETEXT OF THE PUBLIC GOOD IT IS TO BE EXPLOITED,



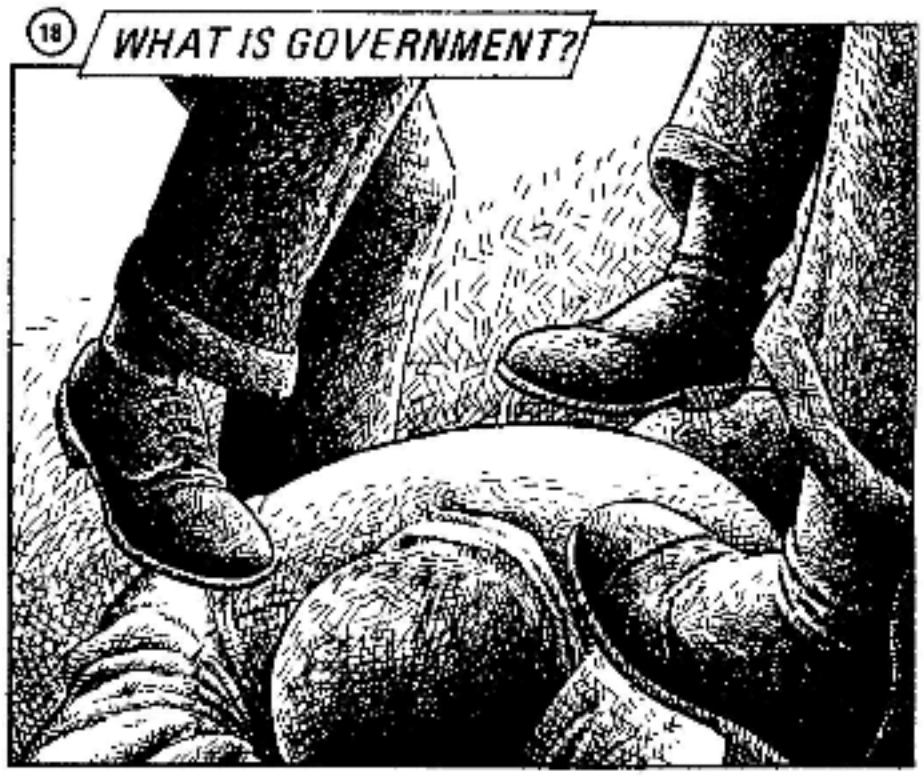
MONOPOLISED, EMBEZZLED, ROBBED, AND THEN,



AT THE LEAST PROTEST OR WORD OF COMPLAINT,



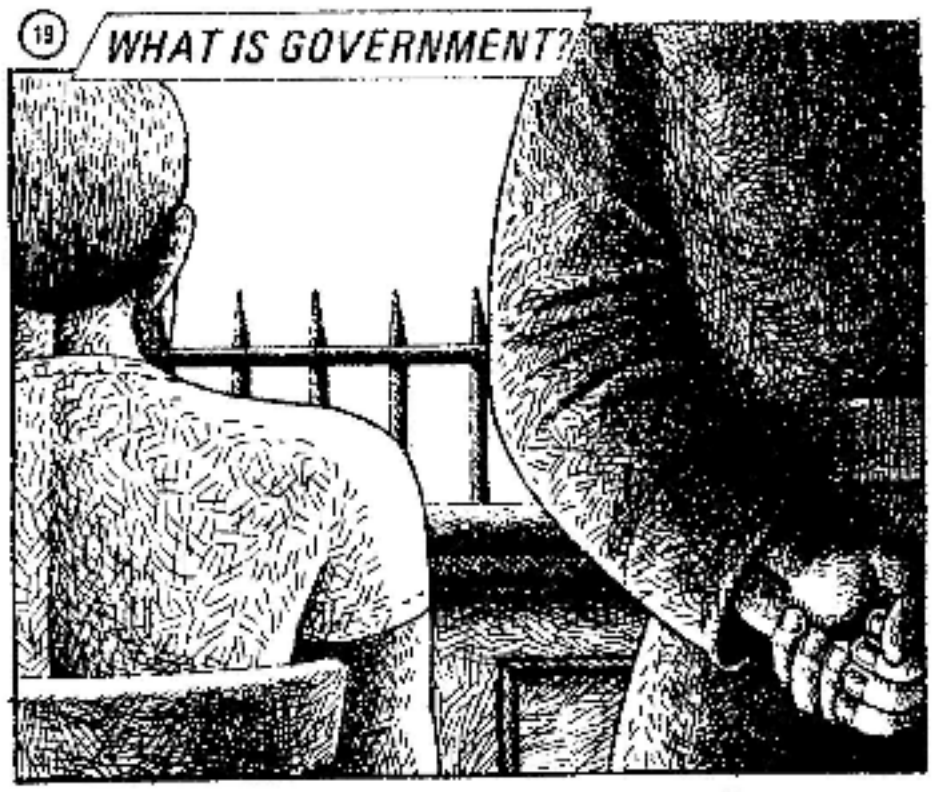
TO BE FINED, HARASSED, VILIFIED,



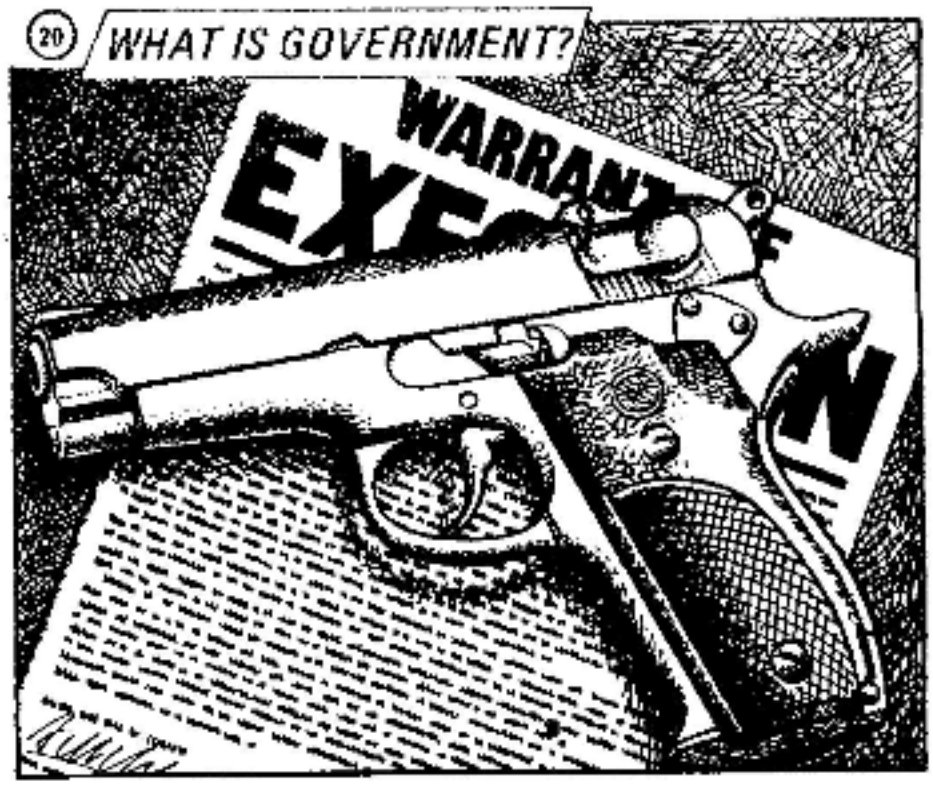
BEATEN UP, BLUDGEONED, DISARMED,

"O human personality! . . . . .

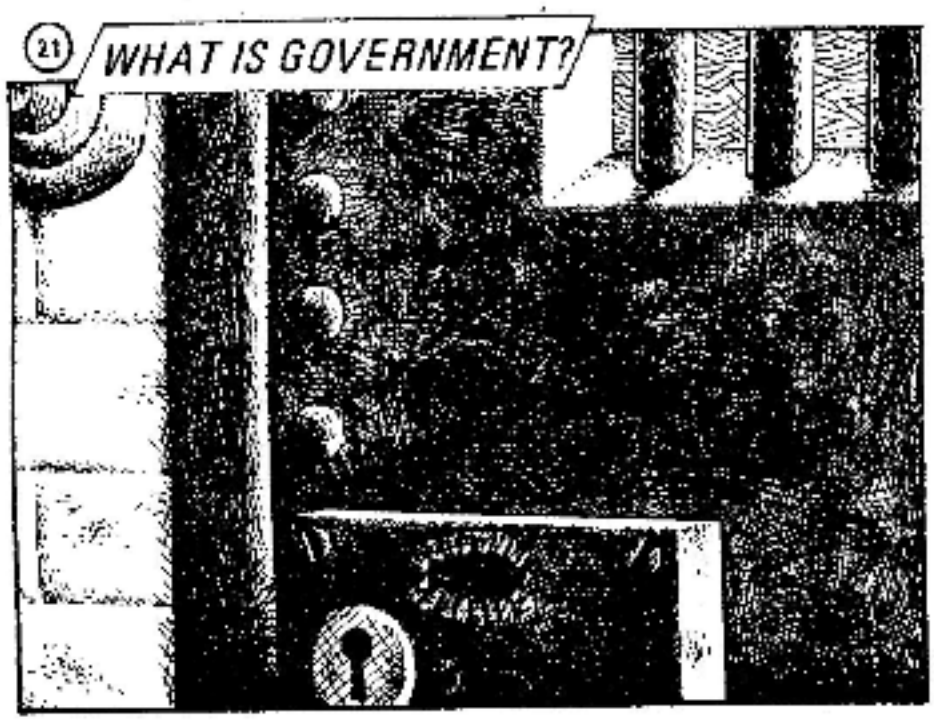
WHAT IS GOVERNMENT ?



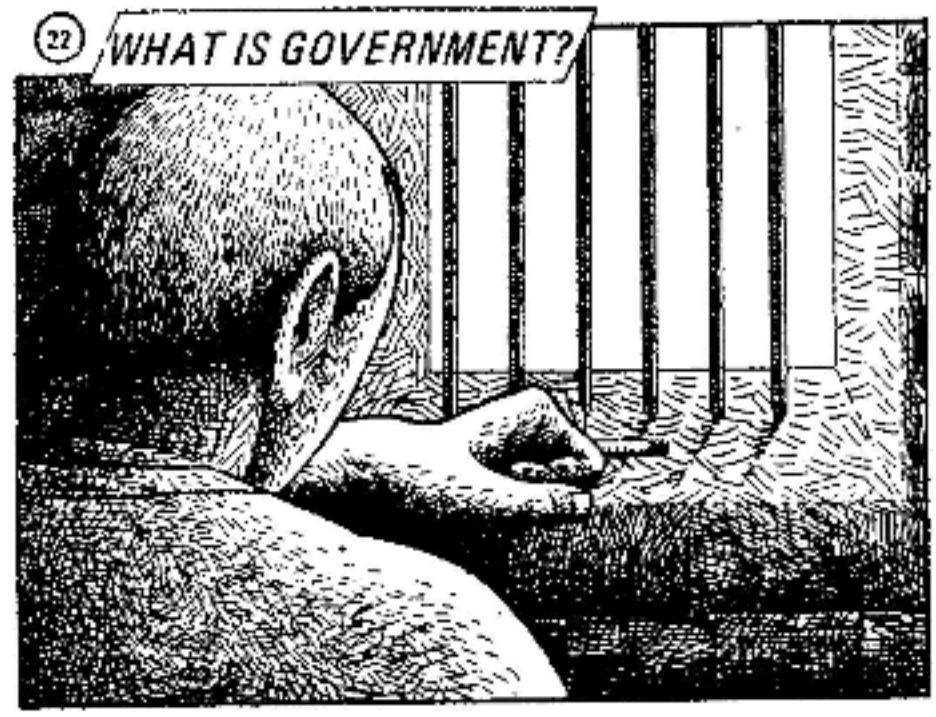
JUDGED, CONDEMNED, IMPRISONED,



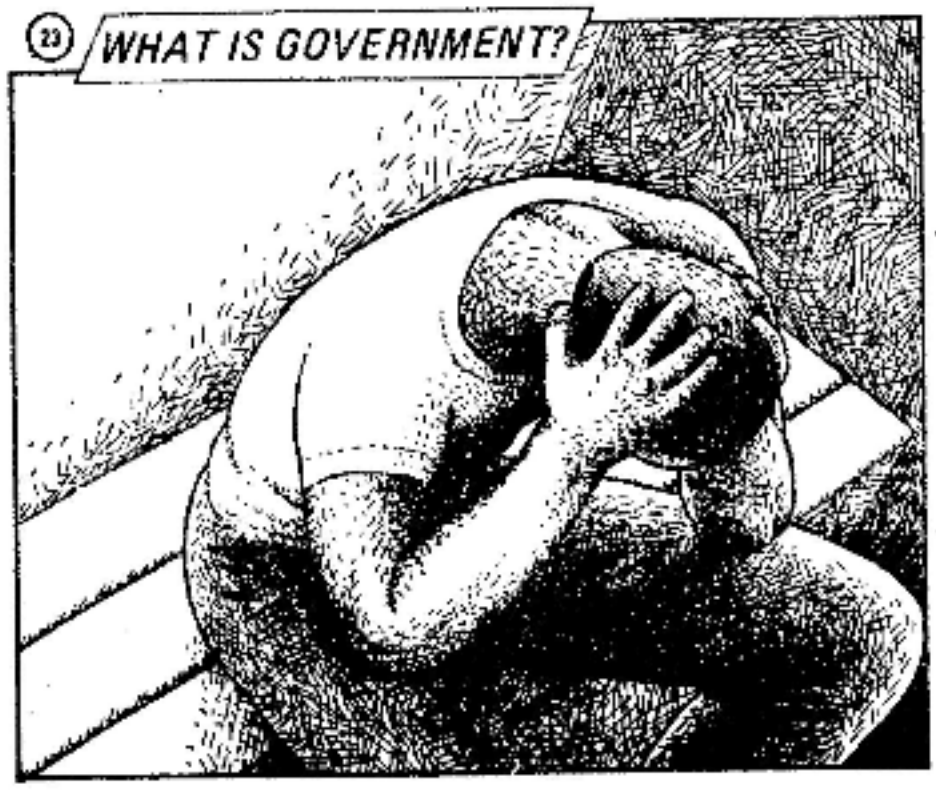
SHOT, GARROTED,



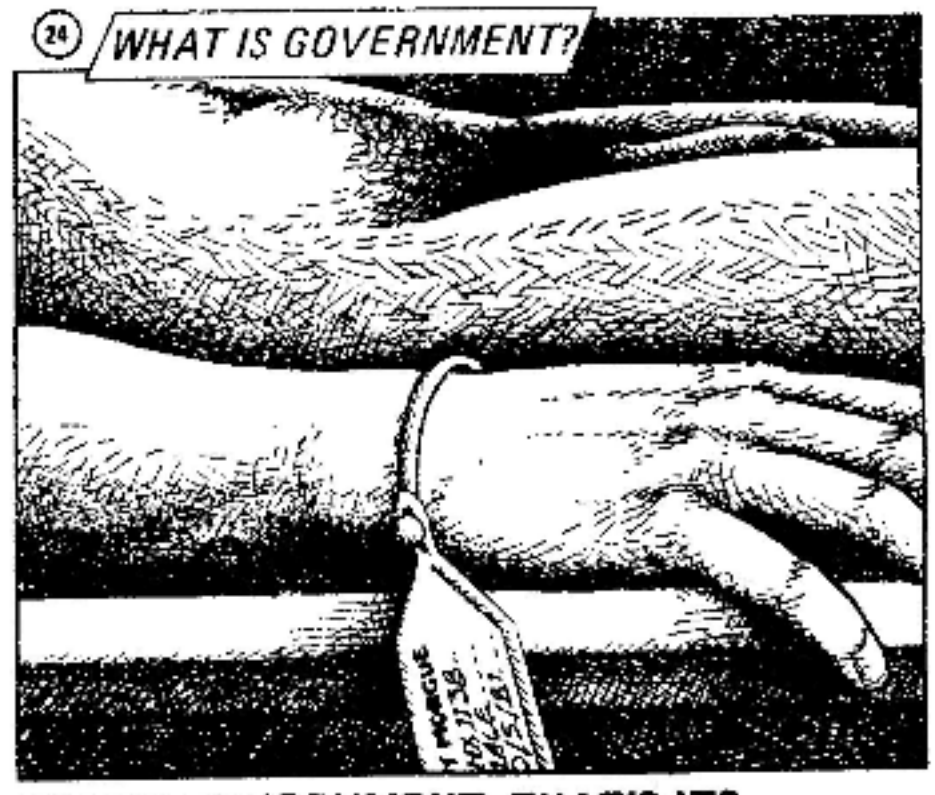
DEPORTED, SOLD, BETRAYED,



SWINDLED, DECEIVED,



OUTRAGED, DISHONOURED,

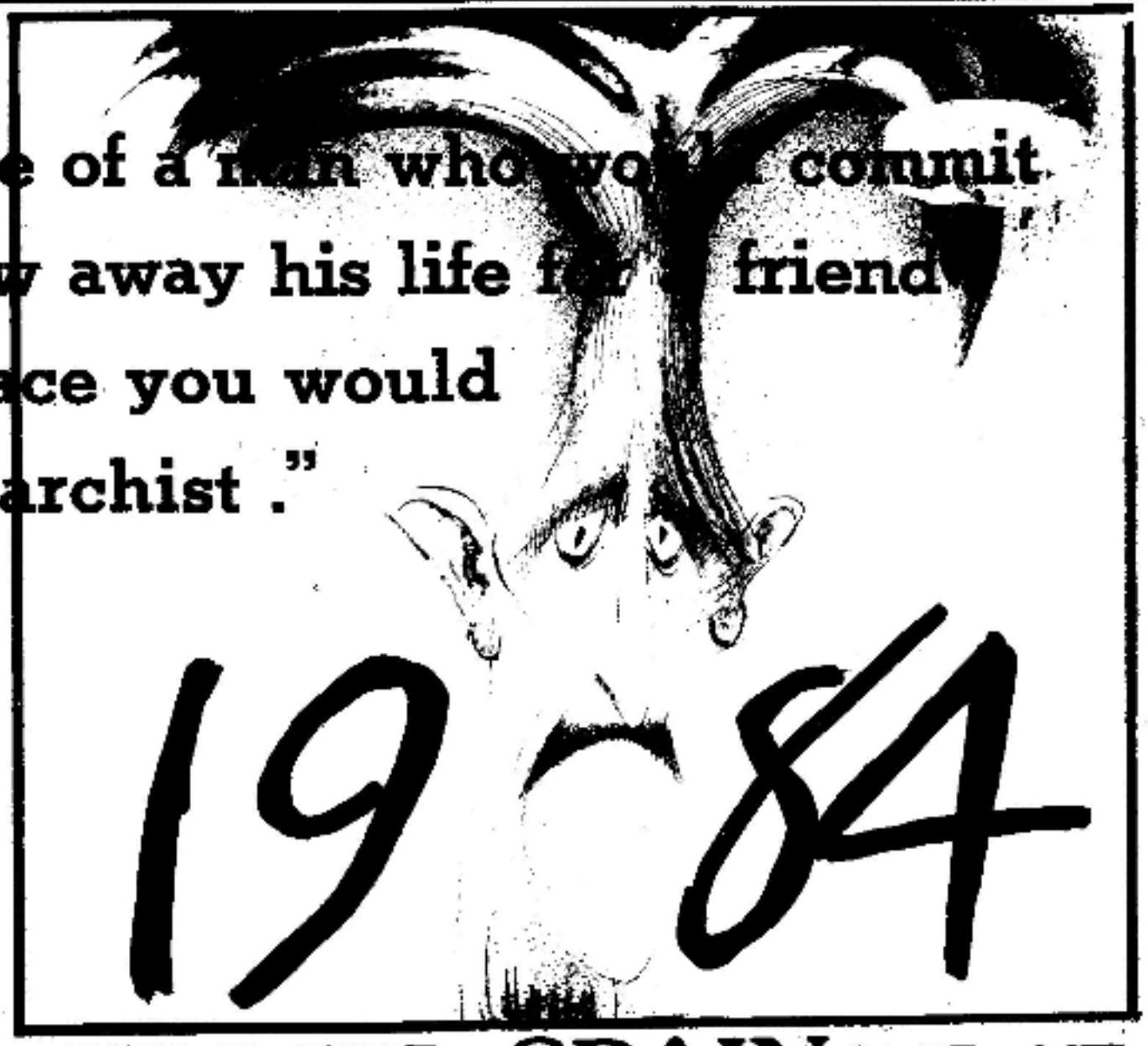


THAT'S GOVERNMENT, THAT'S ITS JUSTICE, THAT'S ITS MORALITY!

How can it be that you have cowered in such subjection for sixty centuries?"

★★★

"It was the face of a man who would commit murder and throw away his life for a friend .... the kind of face you would expect in an anarchist ."



HOMAGE TO ORWELL

There has been, and will be, much talk about George Orwell this year, 1984. A lot of the talk would not be very pleasing to Orwell: many of the people who claim Orwellnow as a great thinker he would have absolutely hated.
Orwell was a socialist , and a near-anarchist.He fought in the Spanish Civil War,gaining a lot of respect for the Anarchists, and a lot of hatred for the Communists. Almost all of his later work wasan attempt to warn of the dangers of authoritarian socialism although he never lost his faith in socialism per se.
He wrote about the Spanish Civil War that: "As far as my purely personal preferences went I would have liked to join the Anarchists " but this was not possible. In Homage To Catalonia Orwell wrote of the C.N.T.-F.A.I., the Spanish anarchist trade union and organisation;

"Roughly speaking, the C.N.T.-F.A.I. stood for: (1) Direct control over industry by the workers engaged in each industry, e.g. transport, the textile factories, etc. ; (2) Government by local committees and resistance to all forms of centralized authoritarianism ; (3) Uncompromising hostility to the bourgeoisie and the Church.
The last point, though the least precise, was the most important. The Anarchists were the opposite of most so-called revolutionaries in so much that though their principles were rather vague their hatred of privilege and injustice was perfectly genuine. Philosophically, Communism and Anarchism are poles apart. Practically - i.e. in the form of society aimed at- the difference is mainly one of emphasis, but it is quite irreconcilable. The Communist's emphasis is always on , centralism and efficiency , the Anarchist's on liberty and equality. Anarchism is deeply rooted in Spain and is likely to outlive Communism when the Russian influence is withdrawn. During the first two months of the war it was the Anarchists more than anyone else who had saved the situation, and much later than this the Anarchist militia, in spite of their indiscipline, were notoriously the best fighters among the purely Spanish forces. "

SPAIN CNT-AIT
the struggle continues

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Anarchism far from being dead or merely a debating point for intellectuals is alive and kicking across the world.There are active and growing @narchist unions in Holland, France,Germany,Italy,Japan,Denmark,Uruguay,Sweden,and of course Spain,where the Anarchist CNT are (Feb2/3) irvolved in a nationwide series of strikes in protest against the so called Socialist regime's attempts to impose theThatcherlike 'Industrial streamlining plan' on the Steel and Shipbuilding industries This is part of the ruling labour party plan to make Spanish industry more 'competitive' for the planned entry to the EEC in 1986.
The main centres of resistance were 'n the Asturias and the Basque region in the North,Andalucia in the south and thetown ofGetafe near Madrid which experienced a total General strike..
In Gijon, a CNT stronghold,it is reported that there were clashes between police and strikers. Banks,shops and restaurants were closed and many shop windows were smashed

This is only another episode in the general resugence of Anarchism in Spain since the death of Franco in 1976
During previous periods of anti-governmental action many CNT activi-sts were imprisoned and remain in prisons such as the Carabanchel in Madrid and the notorious Montjiuch in Barcelona.It was within the walls of Montjiuch that hundreds of priso-ners from both the Anarchist and ironically Socialist unions were murd-ered during the 40 years of the Franco regime.
Regimes may change but repression of Anarchist workers continues. Aquote from CNT militant in his work Strategy and Tactics sums up the situation "Anarchists in Spain have always been persecuted more than anyofthe other Spanish workers movements by each succesive regime. A most profound bond has always existed between Spanish Anarchism and prisons,persecution and physical torture."

BLACK STAR readers can help fight for the release of Spain's anarchist prisoners by donating to the C.N.T. Prisoners Fund, donations to which are being channeled through
The C.N.T. Fund,
Box ABC,
121 Railton Road,
LONDON SE 24.

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THE RADICAL TRADITION ☆☆☆

☆ 2. IDA WHITE ☆

The name of Ida White is ,sadly, almost totally forgotten by the people of her home town, Ballymena. Yet there was a time when she had some celebrity here, and it is most unfortunate that radicals in particular have let her name to some degree die.

Ida White was a great beauty, and artists came from all over to paint her portrait. Her husband, whom she loved very much was George White, the first owner and editor of the Ballymena Observer.

Ida White is famous through her poetry, and her unusual life. She published three volumes of poetry. Flowers of Lyle, Three Banquets and other Prison Poems, and Lady Blanche. Much of her work is very sentimental in a languid, Victorian kind of a Way, which hasn't worn the years well, but some of her better work remains very alive and poems such as Death to the Tyrant, Liberty, Prometheus, Qui sait aimer sait mourir,

Nature,and To Graham and Burns after their Imprisonment for Free Speech are very good works indeed. She was an anarchist, and it is a very great pity that she never published her memoirs , which were to tell of her "long and close experience of socialist and anarchist circles". She attacked a Czar of Russia, was imprisoned in Holloway Prison for a period,which had a deep-effect on her, and she died about the end of the last century in exile in Paris. She caused a scandal in Holloway by having put on her door RELIGION--FREETHINKER, this about 1870. She was an atheist all her life, and regarded many Christians as "sub-human", saying about them "I consider it a far more terrible ordeal to live among such people, or rather creatures , than death in any form."

Her greatest idol was truth, and she wrote "there are things from which one must never flinch and three regarding a lie whichevery truth-loving , loyal soul must hold with: First, a lie is an abomination; second that it injures all who believe it in an irreparable manner; and third , that it is your most important task in life to expose it".

She was very interested in woman's issues, adressing women thus: "gather blossoms while you may, but the most delightful, lasting and useful shall be your individual interpretation of womanhood"

She wrote the following verses as part of her poem adressed to Grahan and Burns, two arrested syndicalist trade-union leaders, in 1888.

Deep in our hearts the bright vision we hold,
The dearest on earth ever seen,
None but the fearless, the faithful and bold,
Dare to worship or serve her, our queen.
For thus from the tyrant foe she was won
With the courage that knows no fear
While ever a sword can flash in the sun
We woo her, and hold her mostdear.
How shall we robe her, this beautiful queen,
Say how shall we deck her the best?-
Oh, Comrades her robes shall be emerald-green,
With your crimson star on her breast

so you wanna be an anarchist.....?

Anarchists are now having regular discussion meetings throughout Ireland in Belfast,Cork,Ballymena and Dublin. The possibility of forming a National Anarchist Organisation has been discussed If you are interested in attending a local meeting or would perhaps be able to form your own group Telephone Belfast 225426 or @lternatively

contact :

BLACK STAR
c/o 7 winetavern St
belfast

ERRICO MALATESTA

" 1853–1932

" If I eat, I cannot enjoy what I am e eating if I think that there are people dying of hunger; if I buy a toy for my child and am made happy by her pleasure, my happiness is soon embittered at seeing wide-eyed children standing by the shop windo who could be made happy with a cheap toy but cannot have it; if I am enjoying myself my spirit is saddened as soon as I recall that there are unfortunate fellow beings languishing in jail; if I study or do a job I enjoy doing, I feel remorse at the thought that there are so many brighter than I am who are obliged to waste theur lives on exhausting or harmful, often useless tasks. "

@@@@@@@@@@@

" man's original virtue is disobedience "